

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Rule 53(b) Continuation of U.S. Appln. No. 08/948,157

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-5.

Please add the following new claims:

- Claim 6. A method for the concentration of liquid mixtures, comprising the steps of:

feeding a continuous stream of a liquid mixture into a turbo-concentrator comprising a cylindrical tubular body which has an internal wall, a horizontal axis and which is equipped with an opening for an introduction of the liquid mixture and with an opening for the discharge of a final product, a heating jacket for heating said internal wall of said tubular body to a predetermined temperature, and a bladed rotor rotatably supported in said cylindrical tubular body where said bladed rotor is rotated at circumferential speeds variable from 30 to 50 m/s,

centrifuging the liquid mixture to form a dynamic and tubular thin layer in which the liquid mixture is maintained in a state of turbulence by the blades of said bladed rotor,

advancing said dynamic and tubular thin layer to said discharge opening of the turbo-concentrator, causing said dynamic and tubular thin layer to flow substantially in contact with said heated internal wall to the discharge opening, and

discharging continuously a stream of a concentrated liquid mixture.

Claim 7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein a stream of a gas is fed into the turbo-concentrator such that the continuous stream of liquid mixture and gas flow in the same direction along a longitudinal axis of the turbo-concentrator.